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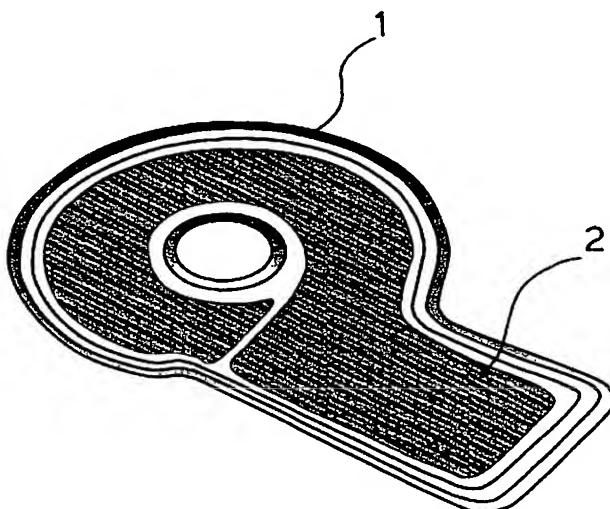
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(54) Title: CONDUIT WITH IMPROVED ELECTRIC HEATING ELEMENT AND CLOTHES DRYING MACHINE PROVIDED WITH SUCH A CONDUIT



(57) Abstract: Conduit for conveying and heating a flow of gas, comprising in its interior at least an electric heating element formed by a thick film layer, in which said electric heating element works as a positive temperature coefficient (PTC) element and is arranged peripherally in relation to the gas flow cross-section of the conduit, i.e. is oriented in a substantially parallel manner to the flow direction of said gas, so that the latter is not even partially obstructed by such a thick-film layer. In a preferred manner, this heating element is subdivided into a plurality of individual and distinct heating elements arranged in parallel and energized in a successive and cumulative manner so that the initial power input can be maintained within pre-established limits, while the power input under steady-state conditions is reduced to a quite lower value, which is however still sufficiently high as to ensure an acceptable power output level.

WO 2004/042132 A2